or in groups for a month long visit as guests of the Government of India; and, that groups of Pakistani students (from school and university, boys and girls) will be invited by the Government to visit and tour Indian academic establishments.

On 9th July 2001, Government announced further measures to make travel between India and Pakistan as simple and easy as possible. Pakistani passport holders will be allowed to come by die road route and obtain visas at the check post at Attari. An additional check post will be opened at Munabao, in Rajasthan. Similar check posts would also be opened at designated points along the IB and me LoC in Jammu & Kashmir.

On the sidelines of the "Third Special Session of the Standing Committee of SAARC Foreign Secretaries" held at Colombo (9 & 10 August 2001) Indian Foreign Secretary in a meeting with her Pakistani counterpart, expressed the hope that Pakistan will facilitate the implementation of these measures and would take similar steps of its own.

Expenditure on Indian Missions abroad

3403. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that expenditure on the maintenance of Indian Missions abroad is soaring up exorbitantly;

(b) if so, the expenditure that Government have incurred during the last five years on maintenance of Indian Missions abroad; and

(c) what steps Government are taking to reduce the expenditure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) to (c) The total expenditure incurred by the Ministry on Indian Missions abroad during the last five years, year-wise, is given hereunder:—

Year	Expenditure (in Rs. Crores)	Expenditure (in mil. US$)
1996-97	510.15	141.4
1997-98	533.13	136.5
1998-99	629.26	147.5
1999-2000	660.02	150.6
2000-2001	698.28	149.3

The major part of expenditure is incurred in foreign currency. The increase in expenditure in US dollar terms in 1998-99 and 1999-2000 may be attributed to increase under 'Salaries' head due to implementation of the Fifth Pay Commission recommendations and indexation of Foreign Allowance including payment of pay arrears. The Ministry has advised the Missions abroad to follow Government of India instructions to economise and the Ministry has been maintaining strict checks on the expenditure incurred by Missions abroad. In addition, various steps have also been taken by the Ministry to reduce expenditure on Indian Missions abroad such as use of e-mail for communication purposes, purchase/construction of properties to reduce rental liability etc. As a result of these measures the expenditure on Indian Missions abroad in US dollar terms decreased in 2000-2001.

Chenab Formula

3404. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Partition Plan pops up again" appeared in the 'Telegraph' dated the 23rd June, 2001;

(b) if so. Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) whether any plan similar or identical to the Chenab formula was discussed in the Indo-Pak Summit meeting for a solution of Kashmir dispute?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government have seen the report appearing in the Telegraph on 23.6.2001 titled "Partition Plan pops up again".

The State of Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of the Indian Union. A part of the territory of the State is under the forcible and illegal occupation of Pakistan. Under the Simla Agreement and the Lahore Declaration which are the cornerstones of our bilateral relations, India and Pakistan are committed to resolving all issues peacefully through bilateral discussion.

(c) No, Sir.

Protest with U.S.A. against offending India's Popular Sentiment

3405. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news report